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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Range Officer, the Tahsildar of the Taluk and the Revenue Divisional Officers will be ex-officio members."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" இந்தக் கமிட்டியில் அந்த ஸ்தலங்களில் இருக்கிற M.L.A.-க்களையும் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளப்படுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" M.L.As. come under the category of non-officials."

Allotment of oil engines to agriculturists in Malabar.

* 484 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the maximum period for which oil engines are allotted to agriculturists in Malabar; and

(*b*) how many oil engines were allotted to agriculturists in Walluvanad taluk under the jurisdiction of the Demonstrator, Perintalmanna, during 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Eight months.

" (*b*) Twenty-six oil engines were allotted under the hiring scheme."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether the oil engines given to the peasants in Perintalamanna were taken back even before the need for them ceased and, if so, the reasons therefor? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of stationing oil engines at taluk headquarters so that cultivators can get them without delay? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already said that the Government examined the proposal and decided that it was not a practicable proposal."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will the Government consider the question of stationing or erection of oil pumps permanently on the banks of the river Bharatam which passes through this area, so that the cultivators may not be put to inconvenience during periods of drought? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is quite a different proposal. If the proposal is put forward, the Government will examine it."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Is it not a fact that agriculturists are given oil engines on hire only for three months and an extension of time by only ten days is allowed, and the engines are taken back even before the need for them ceases? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" If the hon. Member will bring to my notice any specific cases, I will look into them. Normally the maximum period for which an engine is given on hire is six months."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that the number of oil engines is limited and it has come to the notice of the Government that once an engine is given to a certain individual, he monopolises it either in his name on in the name of persons benami for him, will the Government issue strict instructions that in no case should this period be exceeded so that every person in need of pump-sets may get a chance? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that the maximum period for which an engine is let on hire is six months. But engines have been given from one month to five months. Only in one case the period exceeded six months; it went up to eight months."

SRI O. KORAN :—" What is the hire charged for oil engines?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information with me."

Payment of T.A. to the Presidents of Panchayat Boards for attending the conference of the Presidency Panchayat Union.

* 485 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have permitted the panchayat boards in the State to pay their presidents their expenses to attend the conference held recently at Madras?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" May I know the number of panchayat boards whose representatives attended the conference? From the reports, we hear that the conference was unwieldy and that it is not worth while having a conference of this nature? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The Government are considering this point."

SRI K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA :—" May I know the rates of travelling and daily allowances which the presidents of panchayat boards are entitled to draw for attending the conference? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" A delegate fee not exceeding Rs. 5 per delegate, for railway journeys three third class fares to and fro for attending the conference and for journeys by road actual bus fare and a daily allowance of Rs. 3 per day."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether sanction was accorded for attending the conference only to the president of the panchayat board or whether one or two members also could attend? "